<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A network relaying device according to claim [[1]] 8, wherein the determining unit executes at least the detecting process at the time of activating the network relaying device.

5. (Currently Amended) A network relaying device according to claim [[1]] 8, wherein the determining unit executes at least the detecting process at the time of resetting the bus of the network relaying device.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A network relaying device comprising[[;]]:

a determining unit which detects size information for data transfer of devices in a network, the devices including a transmitting-side device arranged on one side of the network, a transmitting-side network relaying device connected to the transmitting-side device, a receiving-side network relaying device for performing a relaying operation with the transmitting-side network relaying device, and a receiving-side device connected to the receiving-side network relaying device and arranged on the other another side of the

network ~~said plurality of the wire networks~~, and which determines [[the]] a minimum one of the size information as a maximum transferable size; and

a dividing unit which divides a packet received from the transmitting-side device in accordance with the maximum transferable size determined by the determining unit.

9. (Original) A network relaying device according to claim 8, wherein the size information detected by the determining unit is a receiving buffer size, and

wherein the determining unit determines the minimum one of the receiving buffer sizes as the maximum transferable size, when the determining unit determines that a request packet received by the network relaying device is aimed at investigating the receiving buffer sizes of the devices.

10. (Original) A network relaying device according to claim 8, wherein the size information detected by the determining unit is a usable maximum command size, and

wherein the determining unit determines the minimum one of the maximum command sizes as the maximum transferable size, when the determining unit determines that a request packet received by the network relaying device is aimed at investigating the maximum command sizes of the devices.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A network relaying method according to claim [[11]] 18, wherein the detecting process is executed at the time of activating the network relaying device.

15. (Currently Amended) A network relaying method according to claim [[11]] 18, wherein the detecting process is executed at the time of resetting the bus of the network relaying device.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A network relaying method comprising[[;]]:

detecting size information for data transfer of all the devices in a network, the devices including a transmitting-side device arranged on one side of the network, a transmitting-side network relaying device connected to the transmitting-side device, a receiving-side network relaying device for performing a relaying operation with the transmitting-side network relaying device, and a receiving-side device connected to the receiving-side network relaying device and arranged on the other another side of the network said plurality of the wire networks;

determining a minimum one of the detected size information as a maximum transferable size; and

dividing a packet received from the transmitting-side device in accordance with the determined maximum transferable size.

19. (Original) A network relaying method according to claim 18, wherein the detected size information is a receiving buffer size, and

wherein the minimum one of the receiving buffer sizes is determined as the maximum transferable size, when it is determined that a request packet received by the network relaying device is aimed at investigating the receiving buffer sizes of the devices.

20. (Currently Amended) A network relaying method according to claim 18, wherein the detected size information is a usable maximum command size, and

wherein the minimum one of the maximum command sizes is determined as the maximum transferable size, when it is determined that a request packet received by the network relaying device is aimed at investigating the maximum command sizes of the devices.